



1732

Patent
Case No.: 56781US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: FLOYD, ROBERT M.

Application No.: 10/028052

Group Art Unit: 1732

Filed: December 19, 2001

Examiner: Mark Eashoo

Title: MULTILAYER COEXTRUSION DIE AND METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENTCommissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

March 29, 2004

Date

Douglas B. Little

Signed by Douglas B. Little

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 19, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecution Examiner's claim group I, claims 1-33.

The requirement for restriction is traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Examiner has stated at page 2 of the requirement for restriction that, "the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process, such as one that extrudes a thermosetting resin which is cured downstream of the extrusion die." Actually, the method in claim group II relates to extruding a multilayer material (for claim 35 some of the layers can be fiber layers) in a certain prescribed way, but whether or not the extruded materials are thermosetting or thermoplastic is not a limitation in these claims. Thus, the claims of group II would cover both the extrusion of thermoplastic and thermosetting materials (which might cure downstream of the extrusion die), and the use of thermosetting materials would therefore not constitute a materially different process.

It is submitted that an appropriate search for the apparatus claims of group I will, of necessity, include a search of those classes in which claims 34-35 must be searched, the field of search being in effect coextensive. In this regard, it is deemed that the requirement for restriction should be withdrawn, and all of the claims examined in this application.

Applicants earnestly solicit withdrawal of the restriction requirement and early passage of the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

March 29, 2004
Date

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